

4.4.18-1 INTRODUCTION

Asbestos is a name applied to a group of natural minerals with particularly good fire-resistant and insulation properties. Asbestos-containing materials (ACM) were historically used in bridge construction. Also, utility lines attached to the bridge or buried near it may have asbestos-containing wrapping or conduits. Materials containing more than 1 percent asbestos are considered ACM and ACM may be either friable (readily releases fibers) or non-friable.

Various federal and state laws and regulations address the identification, handling, removal, and disposal of ACM in order to protect health and safety of persons exposed or potentially exposed to it and to protect the environment from improper disposal of it. This chapter addresses how any ACM that might be encountered during construction of the Project would be identified, handled, transported, and disposed of, as needed.

4.4.18-2 METHODOLOGY

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) was conducted for the Portageville Bridge Project (July 2010). However, the Phase I ESA did not include an inspection for or sampling of potential ACM. Therefore, this assessment is based on the age of the existing Portageville Bridge and the typical construction methods of that time.

4.4.18-3 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Based on the age of the existing bridge, there is a potential that ACM is present in the bridge or in the approaches (e.g., associated with existing utility lines).

4.4.18-4 EFFECTS ASSESSMENT**4.4.18-4-1 No Action Alternative**

During future maintenance work, applicable federal regulatory requirements as well as other requirements would be adhered to so as to avoid exposure of persons to ACM and to avoid improper disposal of ACM. New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) Industrial Code Rule No. 56 requires suspect ACM that would be affected or disturbed by maintenance work to be collected by a licensed professional and tested by an approved laboratory. In addition, federal regulations also govern ACM, including the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants program (NESHAP) and applicable regulations found at 40 CFR Part 61. Depending on the findings, the work could require removal of ACM in accordance with regulatory requirements to protect human health and the environment, including pre-notification to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under NESHAP and/or to New York State agencies and implementation of measures to prevent exposure of persons to ACM during construction and to ensure that ACM is properly disposed of, including site-specific variances and/or other appropriate measures.

4.4.18-4-2 Preferred Alternative

Based on the age of the existing bridge, there is a potential that ACM is present in the bridge or in the approaches (e.g., associated with existing utility lines). Because the Preferred Alternative involves demolition of the existing bridge, measures would be taken to identify any ACM prior to demolition so that they can be handled appropriately. Prior to demolition of the existing Portageville Bridge under the Preferred Alternative, a detailed Asbestos Assessment (Survey)—including, as appropriate based on applicable standards, laboratory analysis of samples of the existing bridge as well as utilities and all other items to be demolished and/or removed—would be performed by a licensed professional. If ACM are determined to be present, a licensed Asbestos Project Designer would prepare specifications for their proper removal. Depending on the survey findings, the demolition could require removal of ACM in accordance with regulatory requirements, including pre-notification to USEPA and appropriate New York State agencies, special site-specific variances or existing variances. No asbestos would be used in the new bridge.

4.4.18-5 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION

If any asbestos containing materials require removal as part of the Project, existing applicable regulatory requirements will be adhered to, including those relating to testing, handling, removal, agency notification, and variances.